

**Physics, Measurements, and Numerical  
Methods**  
**in an Eulerian-Lagrangian Reference Frame**

**Ralph T. Cheng**  
**U. S. Geological Survey**  
**Menlo Park, California**

**Gordon Research Conference 2003**  
**Coastal Ocean Modeling**

# **Acknowledgement and Background**

**Physics -- Fluid Dynamics is Lagrangian by nature**

**Eulerian treatments are for convenience**

**Measurements based on a Lagrangian point of view**

**Dye studies, drifters and all that**

**PIV in laboratories**

**What can we do for coastal oceans?**

**Numerical methods**

**Eulerian-Lagrangian formulation**

**Lagrangian Residual Currents and**

**Long-Term Transport**

**Conclusions and Recommendation**

# **Joseph Louis Lagrange**

**(Giuseppe Luigi Lagrangia)**

**1736-1813**

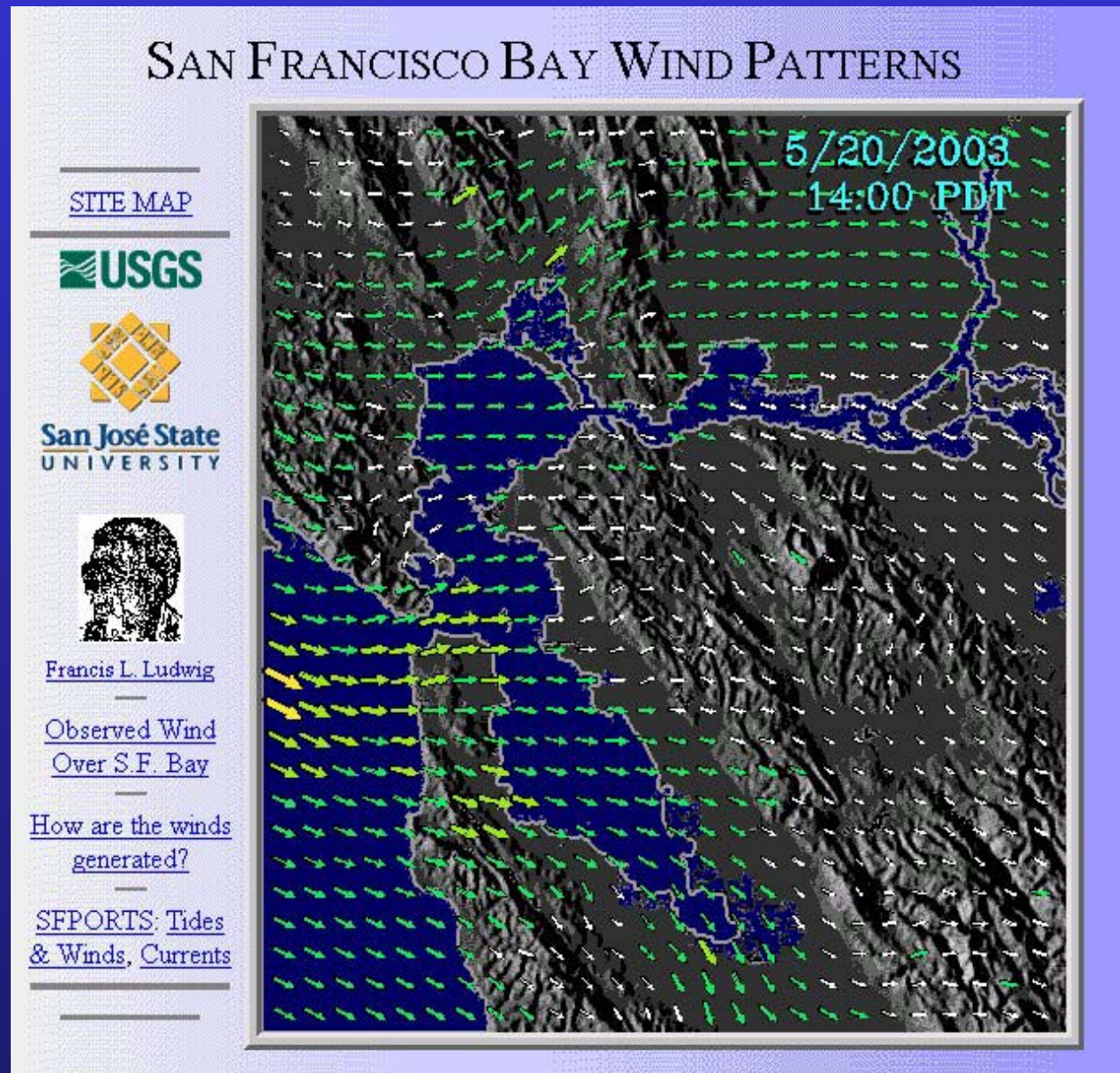
**1766: Frederick the Great (Berlin) recruited him to take the position vacated by Euler, as the court mathematician**

**1787: Louis XVI invited him to Paris**

**Mechanique Analytique:**

**To unite and present from one point of view the different principles in mechanics**

# Eulerian Representation



Eulerian Variable:  $\theta = \theta(x, y, z, t)$



# Lagrangian Representation

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY WIND PATTERN STREAKLINES

[SITE MAP](#)



San José State  
UNIVERSITY



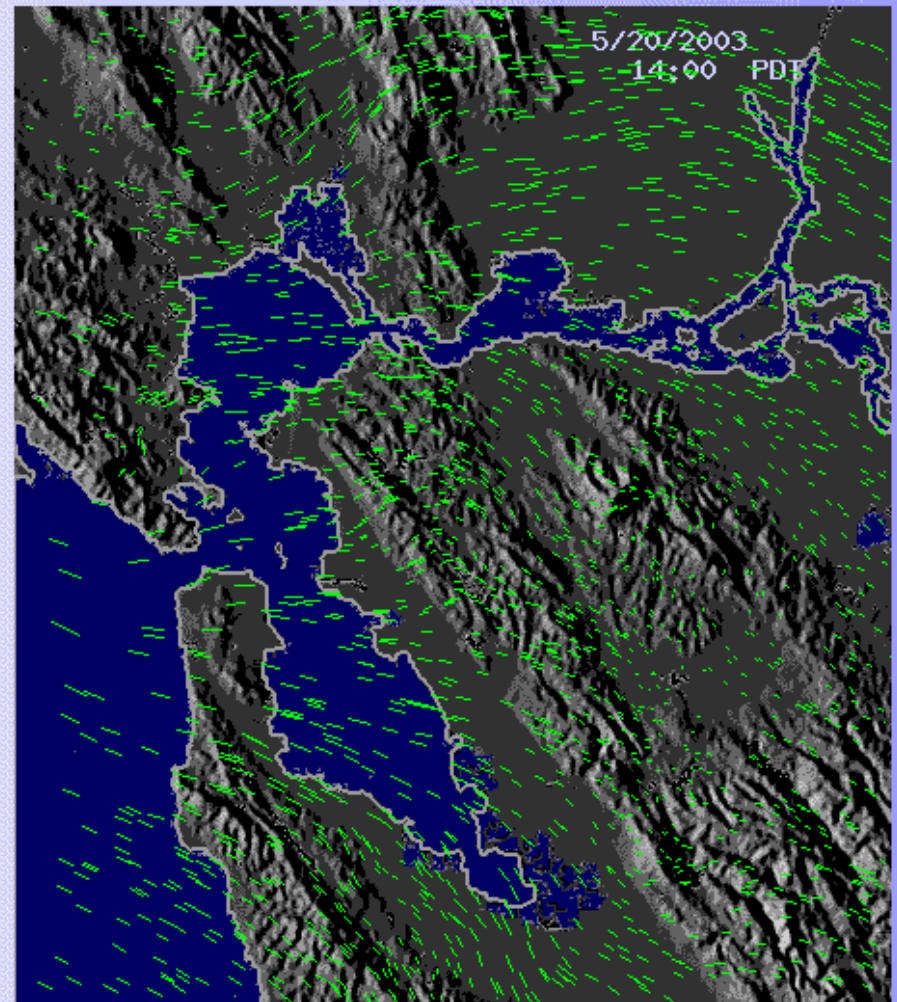
[Francis L. Ludwig](#)

Click to start/stop

Kudos to  
[Nick Thompson](#) for  
this applet -- See  
Description **Below**

[Modeled Wind  
Field Over  
S.F. Bay](#)

[SFPORTS: Tides  
& Winds, Currents](#)



**Lagrangian Variable:  $\theta = \theta[\vec{X}_o(t_o), \vec{X}(t), t]$**

# Physics

**Forward Problem:  
Search and rescue**

**Inverse Problem:  
Search for evidences**

---

**Lagrangian**

**vs.**

**Eulerian**

**Discrete**

**Continuum**

**Spilled Oil Slicks**

**Dissolved Solutes**

**Sediment Patches**

**Pollutants**

**Planktons and Larvae**

**Salt, Temperature**

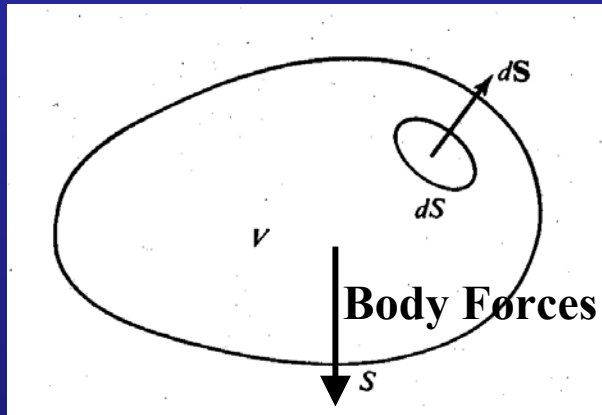
**(Biology)**

# Physics

## Kinematics

### Second Law of Newton In Fluid Dynamics

Lagrangian P.V:

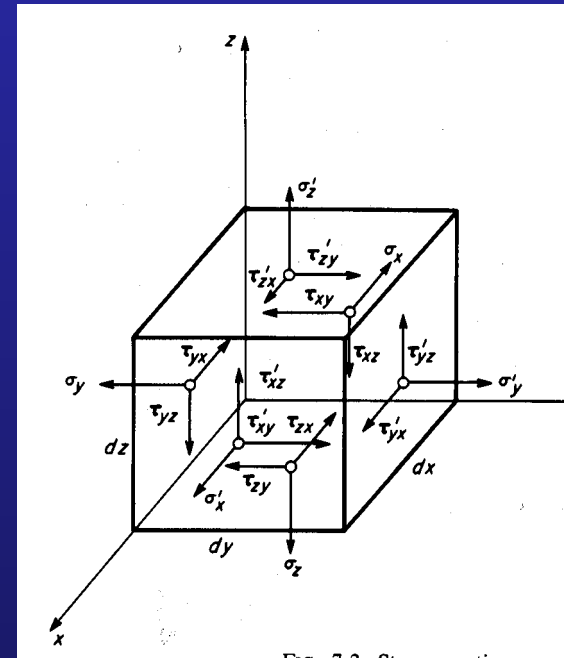


$\sum$  Surface and Body Forces =

$$\frac{D}{Dt}(\text{Momentum})$$

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

Eulerian P.V:



# Observations:

## Lagrangian Point of View:

Physics is clear

Discrete particle dynamics

Measurement difficulties

Hard to quantify measurements

## Eulerian Point of View:

Continuum

Operational Convenience

Easy to organize “information”

## Substantial Derivative: Euler-Lagrangian Transformation

$$\frac{D\theta}{Dt} = \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z}$$



# Some Common Measurement Techniques:

## Eulerian Reference Frame:

Eulerian Variable:  $\theta = \theta(x, y, z, t)$

Fixed Current Meter, CTD moorings

Cruising and Profiling ADCP, CTD

HF Radar for surface current and waves

Operational Convenience, Easy to organize “information”

## Lagrangian Reference Frame:

Lagrangian Variable:  $\theta = \theta[\vec{X}_o(t_o), \vec{X}(t), t]$

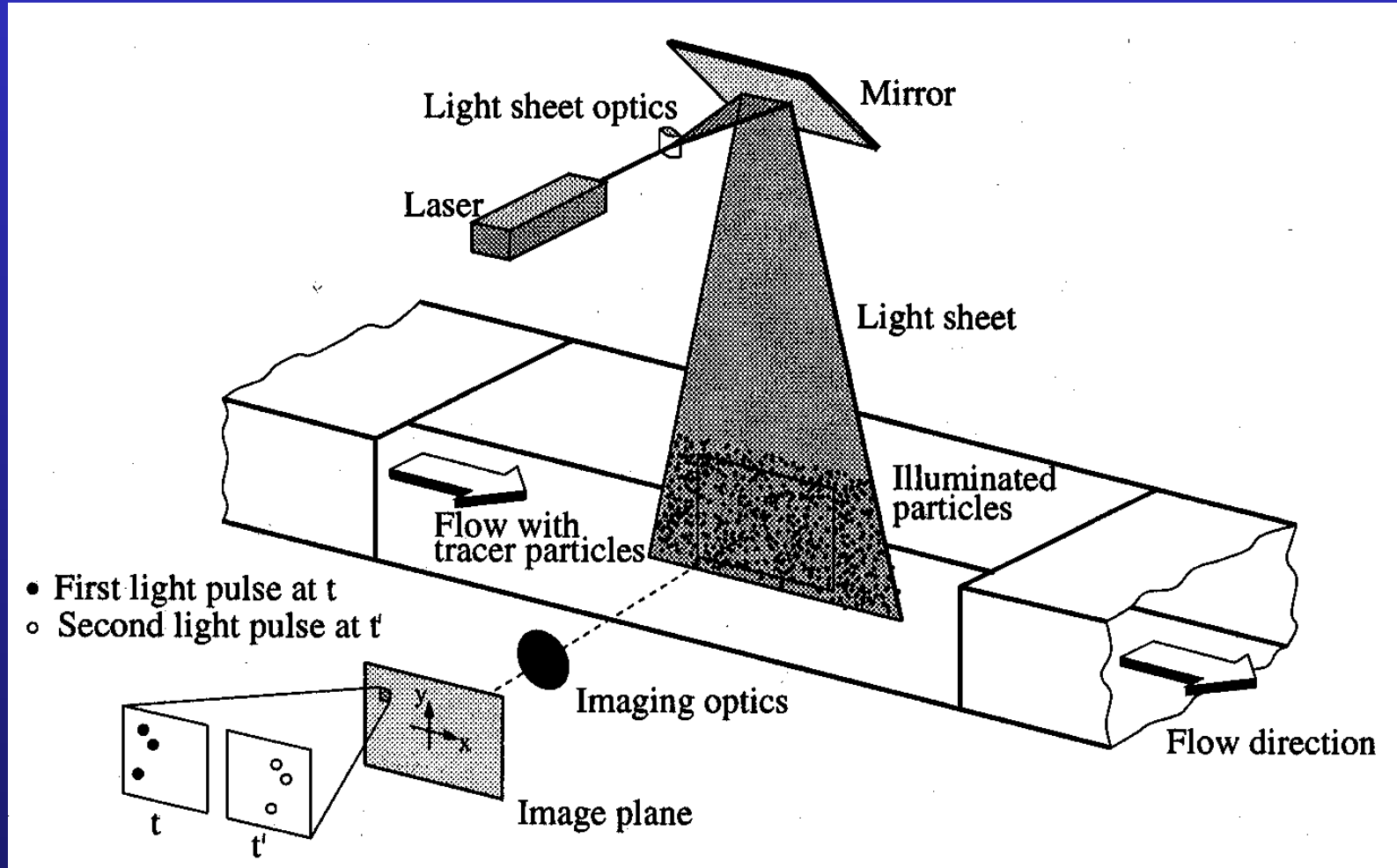
Most flow visualization techniques

Dye studies, drifters

Long-term path of water ‘mass’

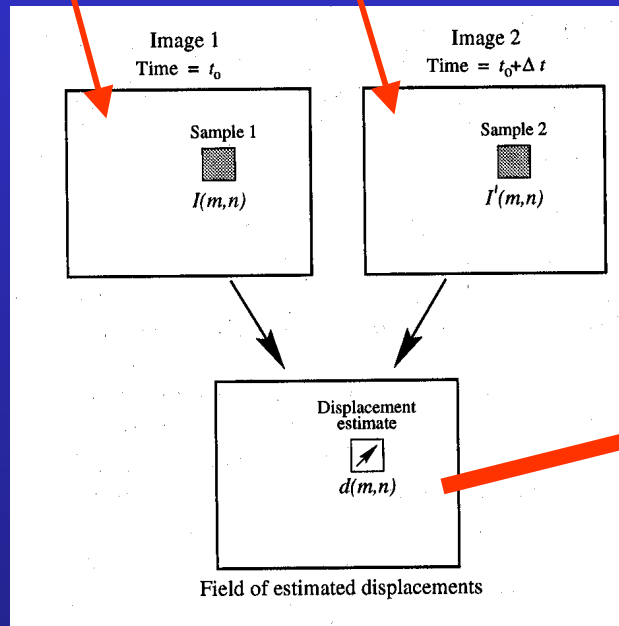
Measurement Difficulties, Hard to quantify measurements

# Combined Eulerian-Lagrangian Measurement Techniques: Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV)

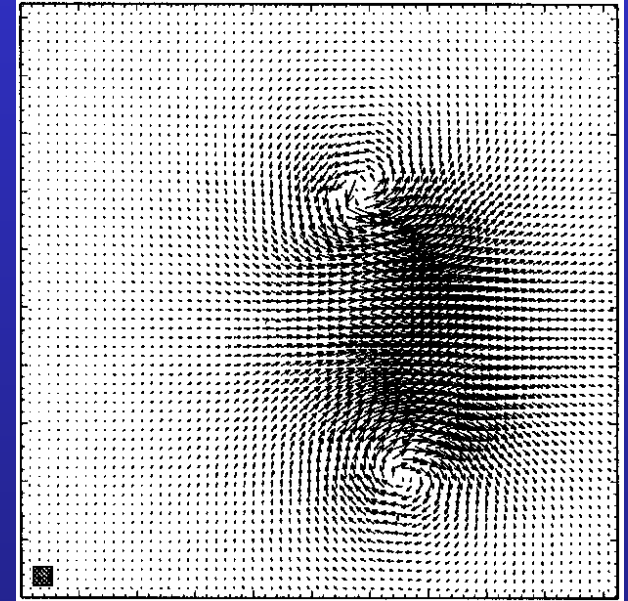


**Particle Image Velocimetry by M. Raffel, C. Willert, J. Kompenhans, Springer, 1998.**

## Lagrangian Observations



## Map results to an Eulerian Reference Frame



**Estimating displacements by cross-correlations**

**Combined Eulerian-Lagrangian Measurement Techniques**

**PIV has been successfully extended to include multi-cameras, to three-dimensional flows, turbulence, ....., etc.**

**Observation: The technique is mature in lab applications!**

**Are there rooms for applications of  
Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) in  
geophysical fluid flows?**

**Have you noticed that weather forecasts are  
more accurate?**

**Difference? Temporal and spatial scales, Tracers**

**Some applications in rivers**

**We have limited success in field applications**

**Challenge #1: Does PIV have any potential in  
coastal ocean studies?**

# Numerical Methods

**Lagrangian Point of View:**

Clear Physics

Difficulties to quantify measurements

**Eulerian Point of View:**

Continuum, Operational Convenience

Easy to organize “information”

**Substantial Derivative: Euler-Lagrangian Transformation**

$$\frac{D\theta}{Dt} = \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z}$$

$$\frac{D\theta}{Dt} = \frac{\theta^+ - \theta^-}{\Delta t} = \frac{\theta[X(t_o + \Delta t)] - \theta[X(t_o)]}{\Delta t}$$

# Eulerian-Lagrangian Approach: CFL Condition Extended


$$\theta^+ = \theta[\vec{X}_o(t_o), \vec{X}(t + \Delta t), t + \Delta t]$$

$$\theta^- = \theta[\vec{X}_o(t_o), \vec{X}(t), t]$$

**Origin of Numerical Dispersion:  
Interpolation of Eulerian Data to  
Lagrangian Point**

● Eulerian Data



# TRIM family of models:

Casulli, V., 1990, **Semi-implicit** Finite-difference Methods for the Two-dimensional Shallow Water Equations, J. Comput. Phys., V. 86, p. 56-74.

**Stability Analysis:** Gravity wave terms and velocities in Continuity Eq. control the numerical stability

## **Method of Solution:**

1. Treat those terms implicitly, and the remaining terms explicitly.
2. Substituting momentum Eqs. into continuity Eq., resulting a matrix equation that determines the water surface of the entire domain.

## **TRIM\_2D: Extensive applications in San Francisco Bay**

Cheng, R. T., V. Casulli, and J. W. Gartner, 1993, Tidal, residual, intertidal mudflat (TRIM) model and its applications to San Francisco Bay, California, Estuarine, Coastal, and Shelf Science, Vol. 36, p. 235-280.

# 2D Depth-Averaged Shallow Water Equations

**Continuity Eq.:** 
$$\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial [(h + \zeta)U]}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial [(h + \zeta)V]}{\partial y} = 0$$

**X-Momentum Eq.:**

$$\left( \frac{DU}{Dt} \right) - fV = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho_o (h + \zeta)} (\tau_x^w - \tau_x^b) + A_h \nabla^2 U - \frac{g}{2\rho_o} (h + \zeta) \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x}$$

**Y-Momentum Eq.:**

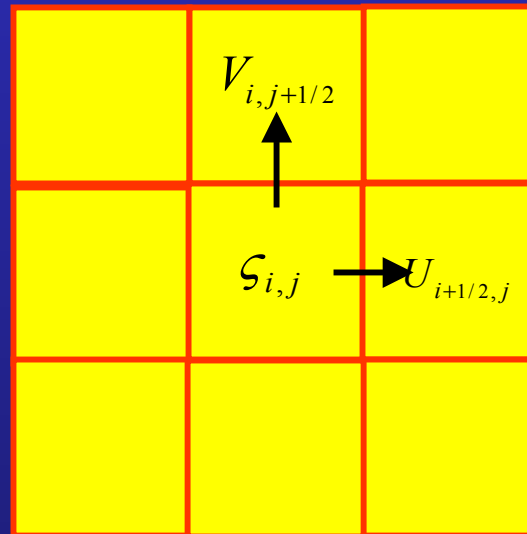
$$\left( \frac{DV}{Dt} \right) + fU = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{\rho_o (h + \zeta)} (\tau_y^w - \tau_y^b) + A_h \nabla^2 V - \frac{g}{2\rho_o} (h + \zeta) \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y}$$

**Eulerian-Lagrangian Method (ELM) => Stability (von Neumann)**

## X-Momentum Eq.:

$$\frac{DU}{Dt} - fV = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho_o(h + \zeta)} (\tau_x^w - \tau_x^b) + A_h \nabla^2 U - \frac{g}{2\rho_o} (h + \zeta) \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x}$$

**Semi-implicit FD: Algebraic Eq. of**  $\zeta_{i,j}^{n+1}, U_{i+1/2,j}^{n+1}, \zeta_{i+1,j}^{n+1}$



## Y-Momentum Eq.:

$$\frac{DV}{Dt} + fU = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{\rho_o(h + \zeta)} (\tau_y^w - \tau_y^b) + A_h \nabla^2 V - \frac{g}{2\rho_o} (h + \zeta) \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y}$$

**Semi-implicit FD: Algebraic Eq. of**  $\zeta_{i,j}^{n+1}, V_{i,j+1/2}^{n+1}, \zeta_{i,j+1}^{n+1}$

# Substituting the momentum Equations into

**Continuity Eq.:** 
$$\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial [(h + \zeta)U]}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial [(h + \zeta)V]}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$(1 + A_{i+1,j} + B_{i-1,j} + C_{i,j+1} + D_{i,j-1})\zeta_{i,j}^{n+1} - A_{i+1,j}\zeta_{i+1,j}^{n+1} - B_{i-1,j}\zeta_{i-1,j}^{n+1} - C_{i,j+1}\zeta_{i,j+1}^{n+1} - D_{i,j-1}\zeta_{i,j-1}^{n+1} = E_{i,j}^n$$

**With all coefficients are positive.**

**The governing matrix equation is symmetric, diagonally dominant, and positive definite. Numerical solution is achieved by a preconditioned conjugate gradient method.**

# Some Numerical Properties

- Eulerian-Lagrangian method is used for  $D[\ ]/Dt$
- Implicit terms - unconditionally stable (von Neumann sense)
- Discretized equation - properly accounts for positive and zero depths
- Wetting and drying of cells are treated correctly
- Pentadiagonal solution matrix - solved efficiently by preconditioned conjugate gradient method
- The model is robust and efficient

# **Systematic Development of TRIM Models:**

## **TRIM\_3D: Applications in San Francisco Bay and others**

**Casulli, V. and R. T. Cheng, 1992, Inter. J. for Numer. Methods in Fluids**

**Casulli, V. and E. Cattani, 1994, Comput. Math. Appl., Stability, accuracy and efficiency analysis of TRIM\_3D,  $\theta$ -method for time-difference**

**Cheng, R. T. and V. Casulli, 1996, Modeling the Periodic Stratification and Gravitational Circulation in San Francisco Bay, ECM-4.**

## **TRIM\_3D: Non-hydrostatic**

**Casulli, V. and G. S. Stelling, 1996, ECM-4**

**Casulli, V. and G. S. Stelling, 1998, ASCE, J. of Hydr. Eng**

## **UnTRIM model:**

**Casulli, V. and P. Zanolli, 1998, A Three-dimensional Semi-implicit Algorithm for Environmental Flows on Unstructured Grids, Proc. of Conf. On Num. Methods for Fluid Dynamics, University of Oxford.**



# Extension to Unstructured Grid Model -- UnTRIM

## TRIM Modeling Philosophy:

1. Semi-implicit Finite-Difference Methods
2.  $\Theta$ -Method for time difference
3. Solutions in **Physical Space**, regular mesh, no coordinate transformations in x-, y-, or z-directions
4. In complicated domain, refine grid resolution if necessary
5. Pursue computational efficiency and robustness

**UnTRIM** (Unstructured Grid TRIM model) follows the SAME TRIM modeling philosophy, except the finite-difference cells are boundary fitting unstructured polygons!

# Summary of Numerical Algorithm

## Governing equations (Hydrostatic Assumption)

### Continuity and Free-surface Equations

$$\text{Div}(\vec{U}) = 0$$

Incompressibility

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left[ \int_{-h}^{\eta} \vec{V} dz \right] = 0$$

Free-surface equation

Horizontal Momentum Equation in  $\vec{N}_j$  direction for velocity  $V_j$

$$\frac{DV_j}{Dt} - f(\nabla \times \vec{V}) \cdot \vec{N}_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\mathbf{v}_v \frac{\partial}{\partial z} V_j) + \mathbf{v}_h \nabla^2 V_j - g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial N_j} - \frac{g}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial N_j} \int_z^{\eta} (\rho - \rho_0) dz$$

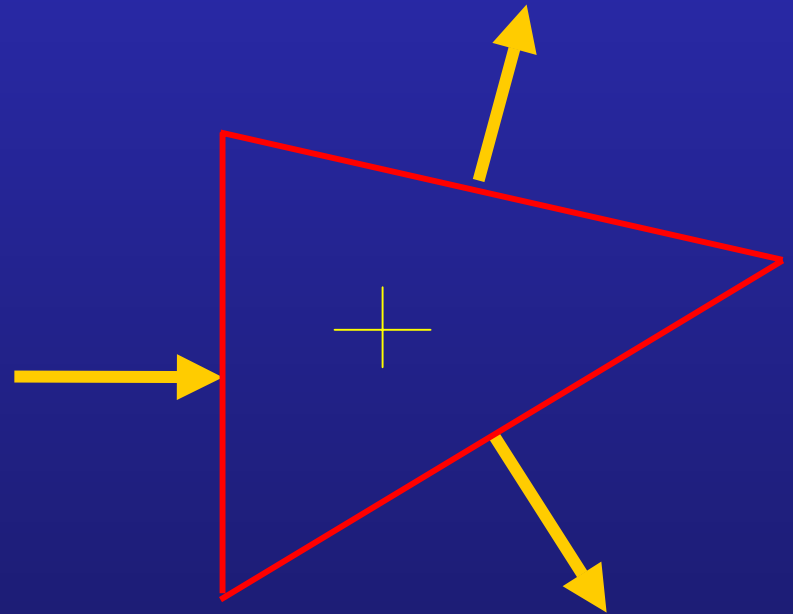
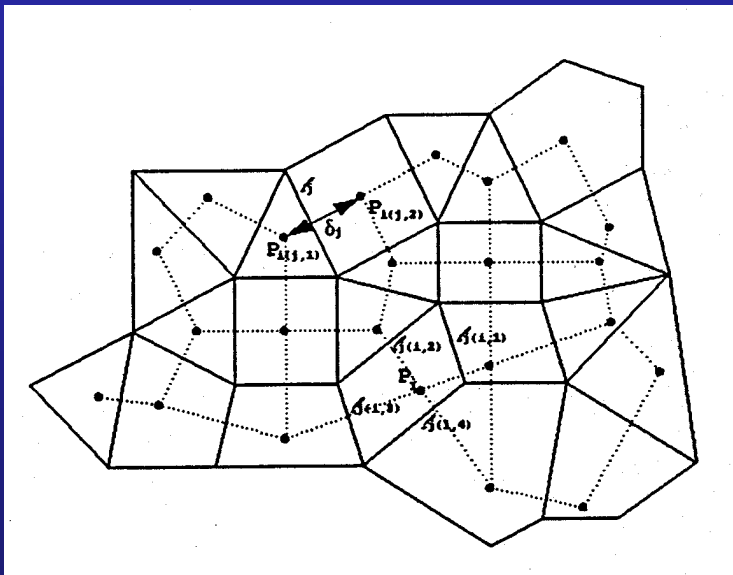
where  $\nabla \times ( )$  is cross product,  $\nabla \cdot ( )$  is inner product,  $\nabla^2 ( )$  is the Laplacian, and  $\vec{V}$  is the velocity in the horizontal plane.

### Transport Equations

$$\frac{D}{Dt} C_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (K_v \frac{\partial}{\partial z} C_j) + K_h \nabla^2 C_j \quad j = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{ Lagged one time-step}$$

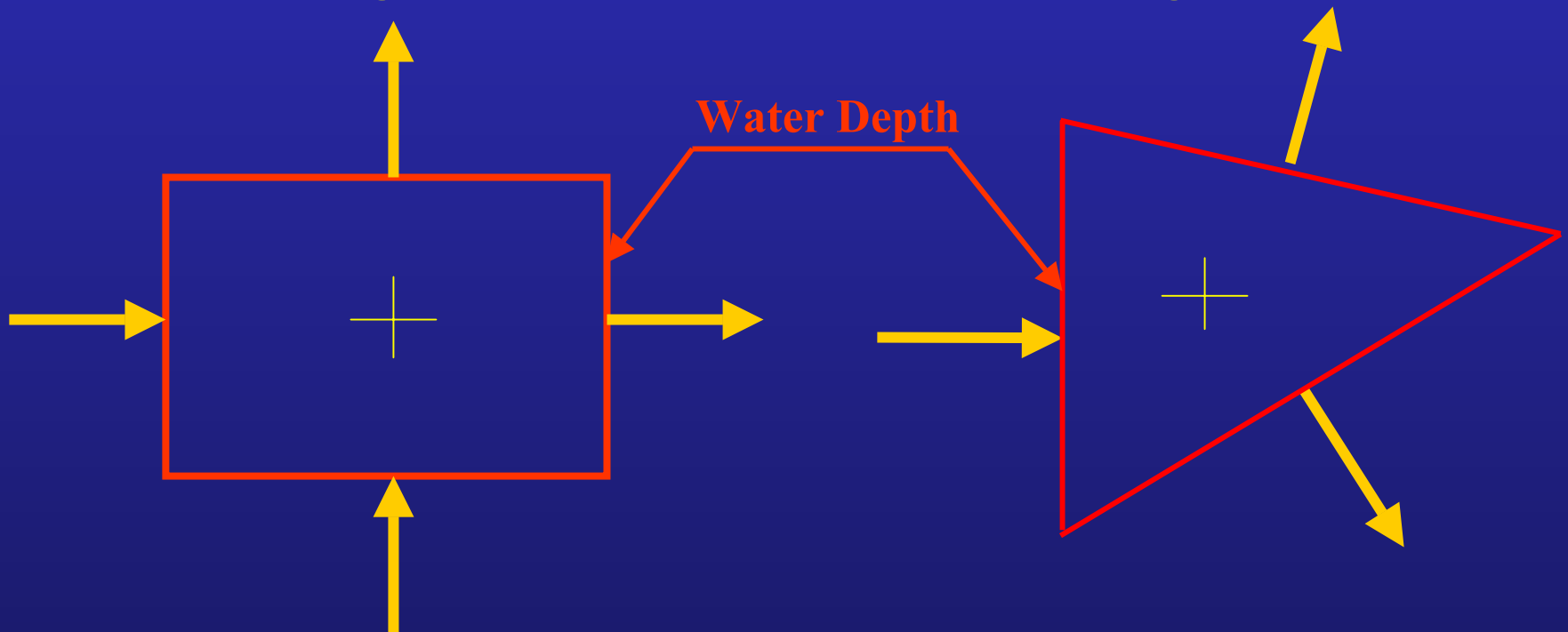
And an equation of State

1. Semi-implicit finite-difference of momentum Eq. in the normal direction to each face is applied!
2. Applied the Finite-Volume integration of the free surface equation!  
Local and global conservation of volume is guaranteed!



3. The resultant matrix equation determines the water surface elevation for the entire field.

1. Semi-implicit finite-difference of momentum Eq. in the normal direction to each face is applied!
2. Applied the **Finite-Volume** integration of the free surface equation!  
Local and global conservation of volume is guaranteed!



3. The resultant matrix equation determines the water surface elevation for the entire field.

# Summary of Numerical Algorithm

**Momentum Equation in  $\vec{N}_j$  direction for velocity  $V_j$  relates**

**$V_j$  and  $\eta$  (left) and  $\eta$  (right) on each face of a polygon**

**Continuity and Free-surface Equations**

$$\text{Div}(\vec{U}) = 0$$

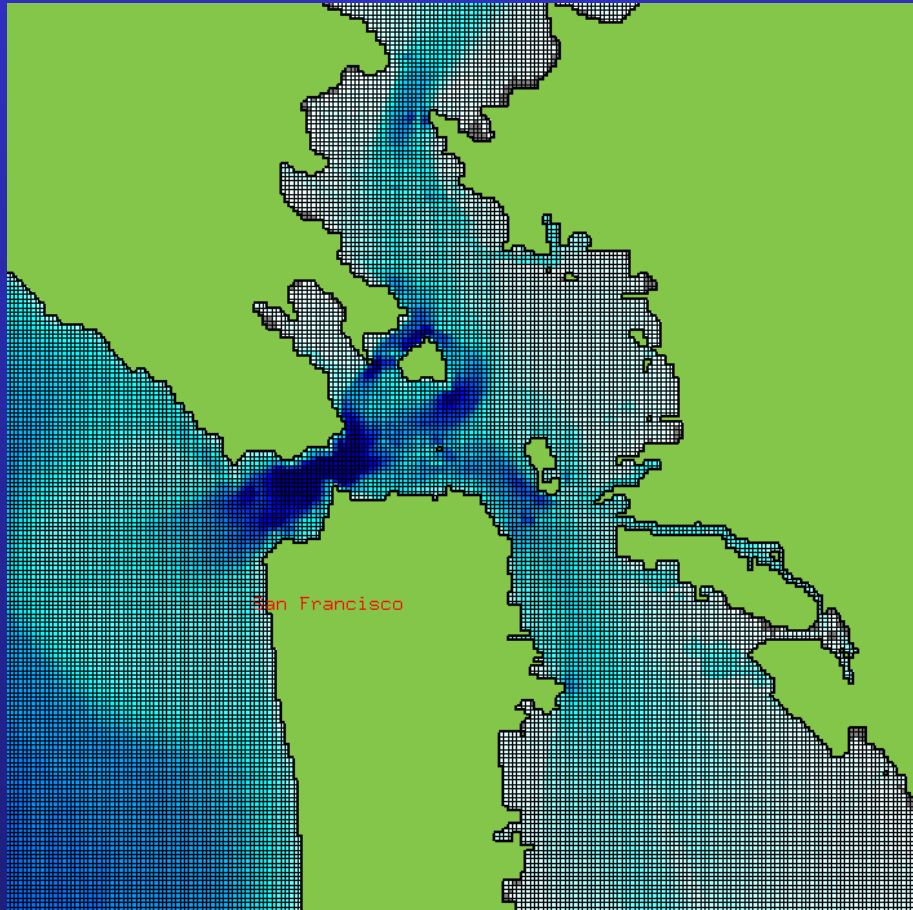
$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \nabla \bullet \left[ \int_{-h}^{\eta} \vec{V} dz \right] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \oint \left( \int_{-h}^{\eta} \vec{V} dz \right) \bullet d\vec{s} = 0$$

**Finite Volume integration over each polygon  $\Rightarrow$**

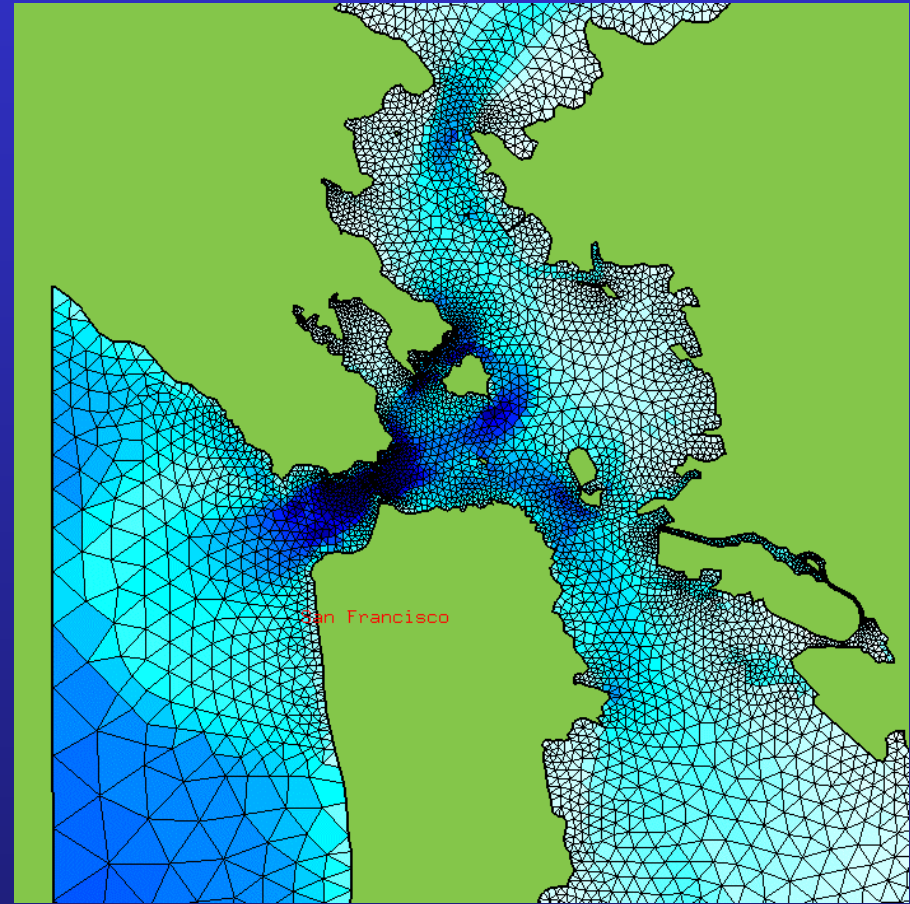
**$V$ 's are eliminated giving a Matrix Eq. for  $\eta$**

**The continuity equation and the momentum equations are truly coupled in the solution. **No mode splitting is used!****

# (All Rectangles) San Francisco Bay, California (Mixed Polygons)



48506 nodes, 45841 polygons  
94374 sides on the top layer  
42 layers, **1,160 K faces**,  $\Delta t = 180$   
72 hours simulation requires 4.06  
hours (R= 17.7) CPU  
on 2.2 GHz PC



12682 nodes, 20126 polygons  
32827 sides on the top layer  
42 layers, **295 K faces**,  $\Delta t = 180$   
72 hours simulation requires 1.03  
hours (R= 70) CPU  
on 2.2 GHz PC



# **Numerical Model is an Eulerian Database**

## **Lagrangian Numerical Experiments**

### **Eulerian-Lagrangian Collaboration**

#### **Lagrangian Point of View:**

- Clear Physics**

- Discrete Labeled Water Parcel**

- Measurement Difficulties (Easier numerically)**

- Hard to quantify measurements (We will see!)**

#### **Eulerian Point of View:**

- Operational Convenience**

- Easy to organize “information”**

- Needed “information” are populated on  
an Eulerian Model Grid points (database)**

# Long-term Transport and Residual Currents

**Eulerian  
Residual Current:**

$$\vec{V}_{er}(\vec{X}_o) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t_o}^{t_o+T} \vec{V}(\vec{X}_o, t') dt'$$

$$\vec{V}_{er}(\vec{X}_o) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{i=0}^N \vec{V}_e(\vec{X}_o, i\Delta t) \Delta t$$

$$\vec{V}_{er}(\vec{X}_o) = \frac{Y(t_o + T) - X(t_o)}{T}$$

**Progressive  
Vector Diagram**

**Lagrangian  
Residual Current:**

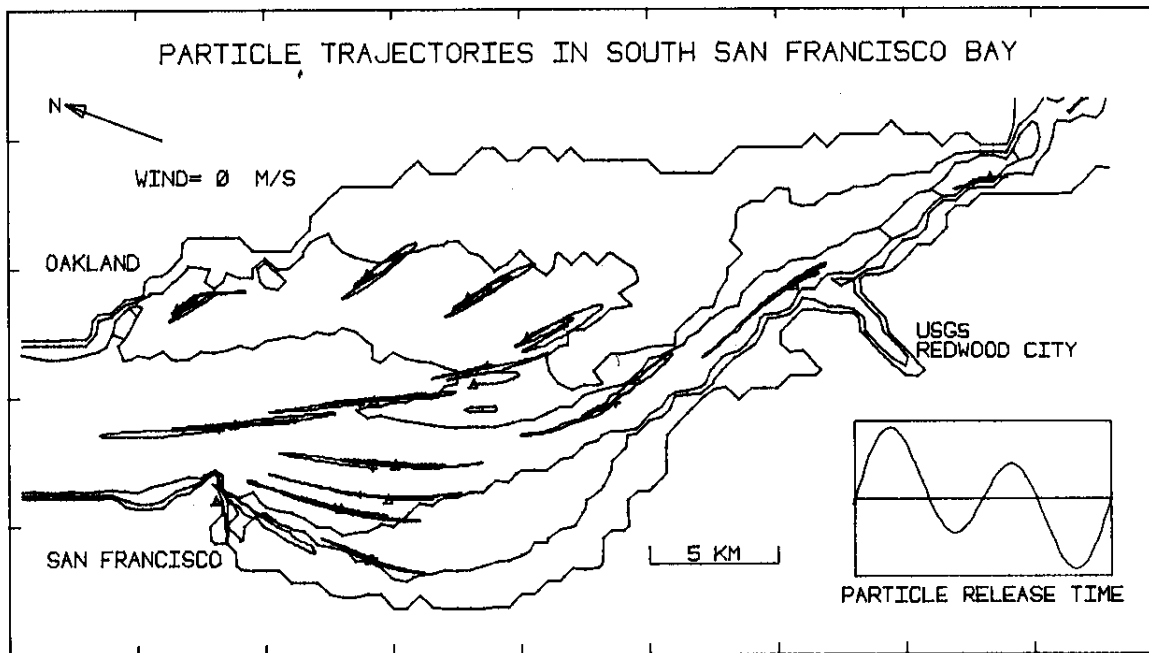
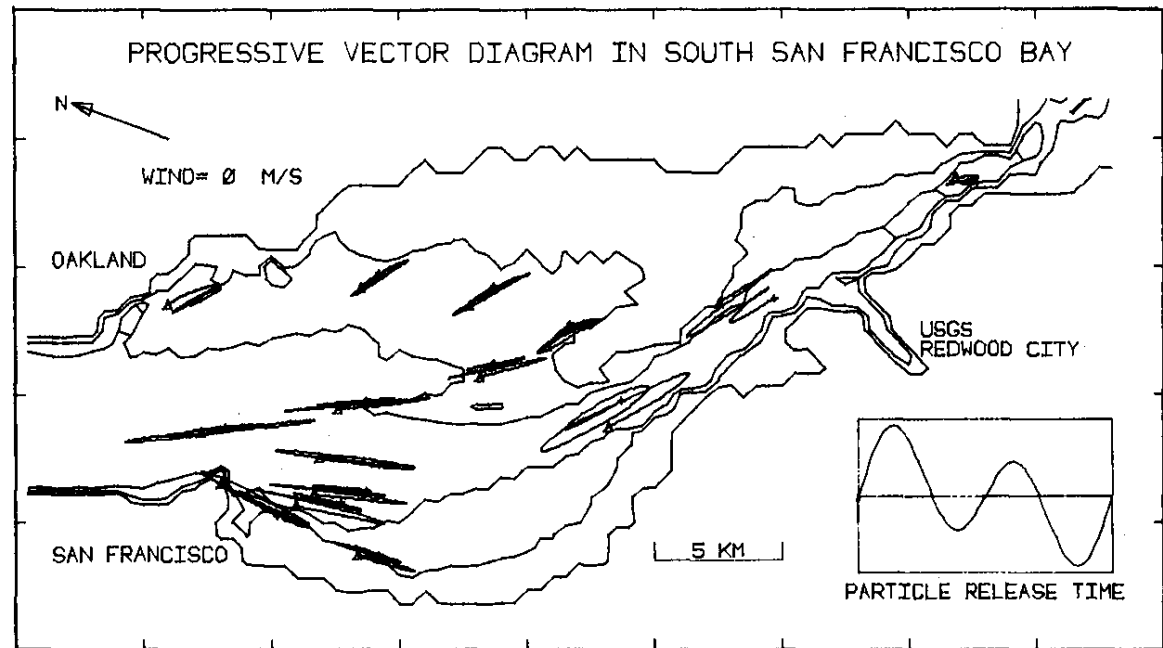
$$\vec{V}_{lr}(\vec{X}_o, t_o) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t_o}^{t_o+T} \vec{V}[\vec{X}(t'), t'] dt'$$

$$\vec{V}_{lr}(\vec{X}_o) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{i=0}^N \vec{V}_l(\vec{X}, i\Delta t) \Delta t$$

$$\vec{V}_{lr}(\vec{X}_o, t_o) = \frac{X(t_o + T) - X_o(t_o)}{T}$$

**Labeled Water Parcel  
Trajectory**

# Progressive Vector Diagram Eulerian Residual Current:



Water Parcel  
Trajectory  
Lagrangian  
Residual Current:

# Long-term Transport and Residual Currents

**Eulerian  
Residual Current:**

$$\vec{V}_{er}(\vec{X}_o) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t_o}^{t_o+T} \vec{V}(\vec{X}_o, t') dt'$$

**Lagrangian  
Residual Current:**

$$\vec{V}_{lr}(\vec{X}_o, t_o) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t_o}^{t_o+T} \vec{V}[\vec{X}(t'), t'] dt'$$

## Weakly Nonlinear System

$$x = x_o + \kappa \xi; \quad y = y_o + \kappa \eta; \quad k = u_c / \sqrt{gh} = u_r / u_c = \zeta_c / h_c$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{V}_l(x, y, t) = & \vec{V}_e(x_o, y_o, t) + \kappa [(\partial \vec{V} / \partial x)_o \xi + (\partial \vec{V} / \partial y)_o \eta] \\ & + \kappa^2 [-----] + O(\kappa^3) \end{aligned}$$

# Results of Weakly Nonlinear Small Perturbation Analysis:

$$\vec{V}_{lr}(x_o, y_o, t_o) = \vec{V}_{er}(x_o, y_o) + \vec{V}_{sd}(x_o, y_o) + \kappa \vec{V}_{ld}(x_o, y_o, t_o)$$

**Lagrangian  
Residual  
Current**

=

**Eulerian  
Residual  
Current**

+

**Stokes  
Drift**

+  $\kappa$

**Lagrangian  
Drift**

**Longuet-Higgins (1969)  
Zimmerman (1979)**



**Mass  
Transport  
Velocity**

=

**Eulerian  
Residual  
Current**

+

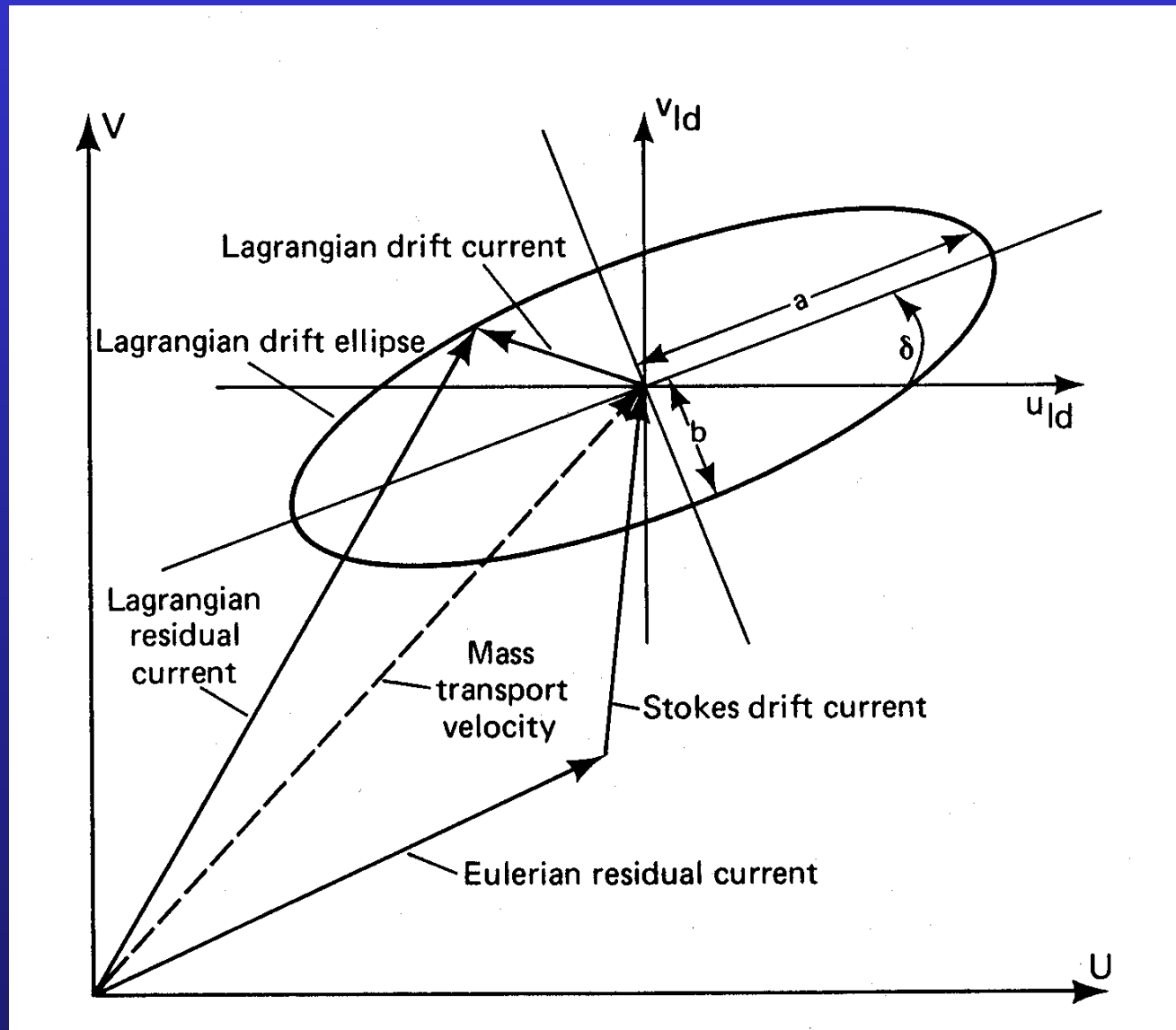
**Stokes  
Drift**

**Velocity  
Gradient**



**Stress: Second  
derivatives of  
velocity**





## Lagrangian Residual Current and Lagrangian Drift



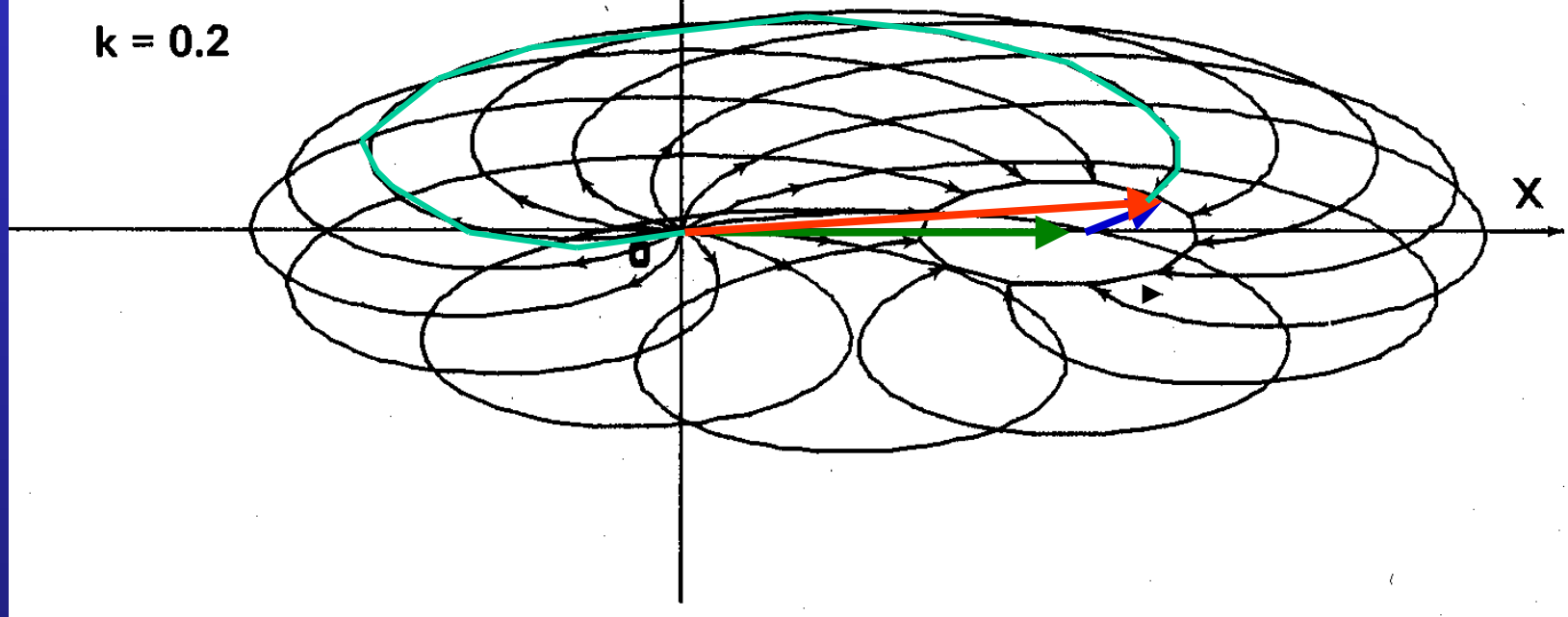
# Sverdrup Wave

$$U_0 = \sin(\theta - x)$$

$$V_0 = f \cos(\theta - x)$$

$$f = 0.4$$

$$k = 0.2$$



$$\vec{V}_{lr}(x_o, y_o, \theta_o) = \vec{V}_{er}(x_o, y_o) + \vec{V}_{sd}(x_o, y_o) + \kappa \vec{V}_{ld}(x_o, y_o, \theta_o)$$

$$\vec{V}_{er}(x_o, y_o) = 0 \quad u_{ld}(x_o, y_o, \theta_o) = 1/2 \sin(\theta_o - x_o - \pi)$$

$$\vec{V}_{sd}(x_o, y_o) = 1/2 \quad v_{ld}(x_o, y_o, \theta_o) = f/2 \cos(\theta_o - x_o - \pi)$$

# Long-term Transport and Residual Currents

## Two Pathways to Long-term Transport:

### 1. Direct integration of transport equation

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + \vec{V} \bullet \nabla \theta = D \nabla^2 \theta$$

### 2. Seek for an intertidal transport equation

$$\frac{\partial \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial t} + \vec{V}_{er} \bullet \nabla \langle \theta \rangle = \langle \vec{V}' \bullet \nabla \theta' \rangle + \langle D \nabla^2 \theta \rangle$$

where  $\langle \dots \rangle$  is tidally averaged

$$\vec{V} = \vec{V}_{er} + \vec{V}'(t) \qquad \theta = \langle \theta \rangle + \theta'(t)$$

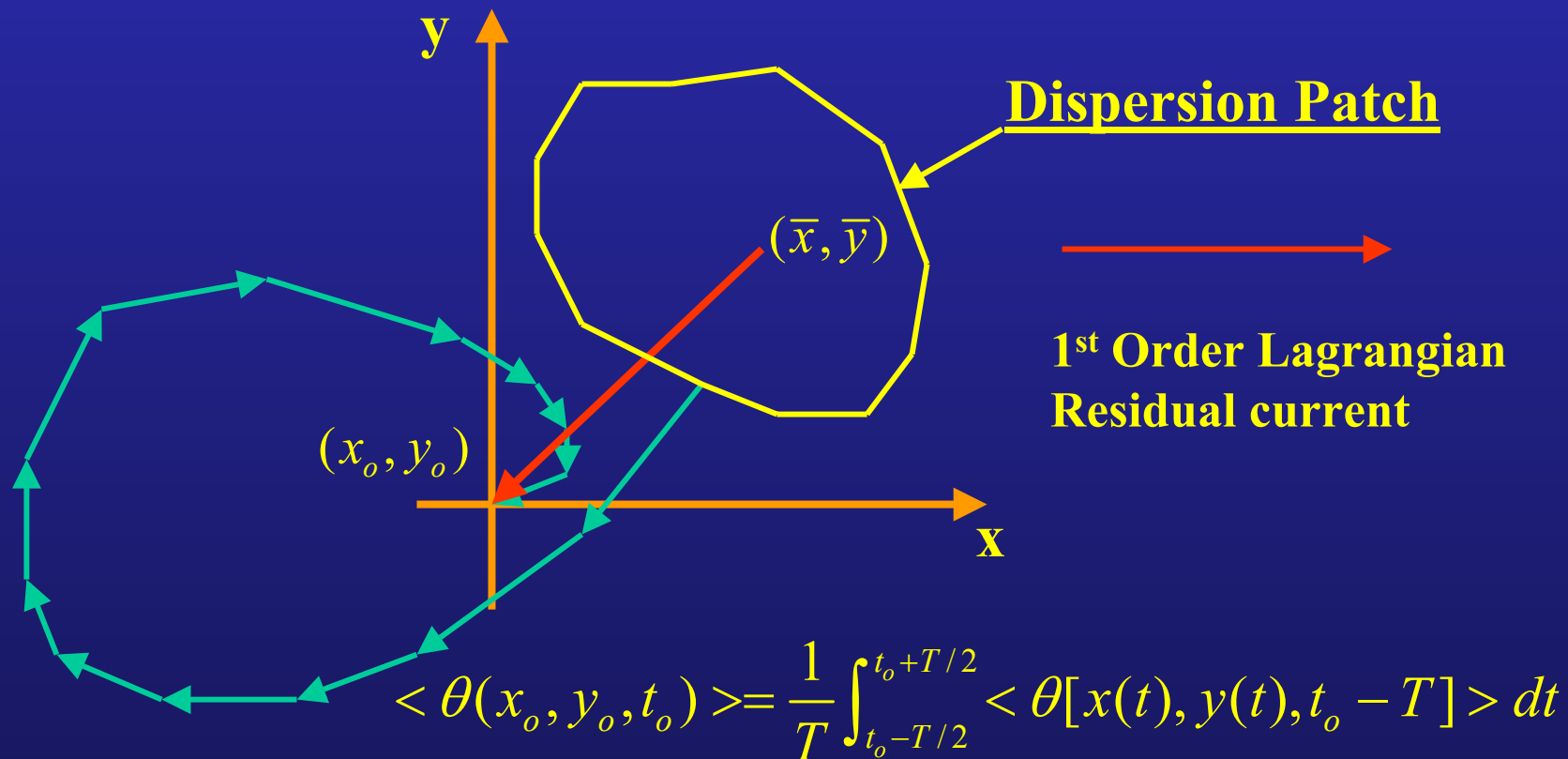
### 3. Small Perturbation Analysis:

$$(\vec{V}_{er} + \vec{V}_{sd}) \bullet \nabla \langle \theta \rangle = \kappa (Dispersion)$$

$$\text{Mass Transport Velocity} \qquad \langle \vec{V}' \bullet \nabla \theta' \rangle = \vec{V}_{sd} \bullet \nabla \langle \theta \rangle$$

# Generalized Intertidal Transport Equation and Tidal Dispersion

Time Average vs. Ensemble Average  
(Eulerian) (Lagrangian)



# Generalized Intertidal Transport Equation a

$$\frac{\langle \theta(x_o, y_o, t_o) \rangle - \langle \theta(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, t_o - T) \rangle}{T} =$$

$$\frac{\frac{1}{T} \int_{t_o - T/2}^{t_o + T/2} \langle \theta[x(t), y(t), t_o - T] \rangle dt - \langle \theta[\bar{x}, \bar{y}, t_o - T] \rangle}{T}$$

**Taylor Series Expansion about  $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, t_o - T)$**

$$\frac{\partial \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial t} + \langle \vec{V}_{lr} \rangle \bullet \nabla \langle \theta \rangle =$$

$$D_{xx} \frac{\partial^2 \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial x^2} + 2D_{xy} \frac{\partial^2 \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial x \partial y} + D_{yy} \frac{\partial^2 \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial y^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial t} + \langle \vec{V}_{lr} \rangle \bullet \nabla \langle \theta \rangle =$$

$$D_{xx} \frac{\partial^2 \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial x^2} + 2D_{xy} \frac{\partial^2 \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial x \partial y} + D_{yy} \frac{\partial^2 \langle \theta \rangle}{\partial y^2}$$

**where**

$$\langle \vec{V}_{lr} \rangle = \frac{1}{T} [(\bar{x} - x_o), (\bar{y} - y_o)]$$

$$D_{xx} = \frac{1}{2T^2} \int_{t_o - T/2}^{t_o + T/2} [x(t) - \bar{x}]^2 dt$$

$$D_{xy} = \frac{1}{2T^2} \int_{t_o - T/2}^{t_o + T/2} [x(t) - \bar{x}][y(t) - \bar{y}] dt$$

$$D_{yy} = \frac{1}{2T^2} \int_{t_o - T/2}^{t_o + T/2} [y(t) - \bar{y}]^2 dt$$

**These results gives clear physics, consistent to weakly nonlinear analysis without invoking weakly nonlinear approximation**

**To define ‘dispersion patch’, the hydrodynamic equations need to be integrated ‘backward’ in time**

**Computations of tidal dispersion coefficients for San Francisco Bay show correct order of magnitude**

**Challenge #2: How do we validate these computations and implement this approach for practical applications?**

# Conclusion:

**Lagrangian VP gives clear  
Physics but difficult to Manage!**

**Eulerian VP is well suited for  
quantification!**

**Recommendation:**

**Think as a Lagrangian!**

**Act as an Eulerian!**

**Thank you!**